

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TAGS: PARM, US, UR

SUBJECT: TTBT/PNE NEGOTIATIONS: US STATEMENT AT 78TH PLENARY

TTBT/PNE DELEGATION MESSAGE NO. 112

1. FOLLOWING IS US STATEMENT MADE BY AMBASSADOR STOESSEL AT
78TH PLENARY, 10 MARCH, 10:30 AM:
BEGIN TEXT

MR. MINISTER: TODAY I HAVE ONLY A SHORT STATEMENT IN
RESPONSE TO SEVERAL OF YOUR REMARKS OF YESTERDAY.

MY FIRST COMMENT IS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE USE OF RADIO
LINKS AS PART OF THE LOCAL SEISMIC NETWORK. WE WERE
ENCOURAGED TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT THE SOVIET SIDE IS STUDYING
THE DATA ON FREQUENCIES, POWER LEVELS, AND ANTENNAS WHICH
WE PROVIDED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO AND THAT YOU DO NOT SEE ANY
NECESSITY FOR FURTHER DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING AN EARLY RESPONSE TO THE
LANGUAGE WE GAVE YOU ON THIS SPECIFIC SUBJECT IN SEPTEMBER
1975.

MY SECOND COMMENT IS IN RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST
FOR THE REASONS UNDERLYING THE CURRENT US PROPOSAL
PROVIDING FOR ONE SET OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT TO BE
RETAINED AFTER THE EXPLOSION BY THE PARTY CARRYING OUT
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THE EXPLOSION AND THE OTHER SET OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT

TO BE RETAINED BY DESIGNATED PERSONNEL. AS I SAID ON FEBRUARY 18 AND 19, THE SOVIET PROPOSAL OF FEBRUARY 16 EMBODIED A NUMBER OF NEW ELEMENTS, INCLUDING INTRODUCTION OF THE PROCESS OF CHOICE. THIS NEW PROPOSAL REQUIRED THE US TO MAKE A NEW EVALUATION OF EACH OF THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS INVOLVED.

OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROCESS OF CHOICE IS THAT IT IS A FUNDAMENTAL APPROACH DESIGNED TO RELIEVE THE CONCERNS OF THE PARTY CARRYING OUT THE EXPLOSION WITH REGARD TO THE ABILITY OF VERIFICATION EQUIPMENT TO OBTAIN UNWARRANTED INFORMATION. WE ACCEPTED THIS NEW CONCEPT BASED ON CHOICE AND BELIEVED THAT IT SHOULD ADEQUATELY MEET THE SOVIET CONCERNS WITHOUT POST-SHOT RETENTION OF THE RECORDING EQUIPMENT BY THE HOST. THIS FORMED THE BASIS FOR OUR COUNTER-PROPOSAL OF FEBRUARY 18.

THE SOVIET SIDE RESPONDED THAT THEY REQUIRED POST-SHOT RETENTION OF THE RECORDING EQUIPMENT FOR A PERIOD OF EXAMINATION BECAUSE THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT MODIFICATIONS THAT MIGHT CONCEIVABLY BE MADE BY DESIGNATED PERSONNEL DURING THEIR CHECK-OUT AND OPERATION OF THE EQUIPMENT BEFORE THE EXPLOSION, WHICH MIGHT GIVE THE EQUIPMENT SOME CAPABILITY FOR INTERCEPTING AND RECORDING UNWARRANTED DATA.

IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY THE SOVIET SIDE THAT THE VERIFYING PARTY MAY ALSO HAVE SIMILAR CONCERNS REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF ALTERATION OR DISABLEMENT OF THE EQUIPMENT BY PERSONNEL OF THE PARTY CARRYING OUT THE EXPLOSION WHICH COULD DESTROY OR ALTER THE RECORDED DATA. IN AN EFFORT TO MEET THESE POTENTIAL CONCERNS OF BOTH THE PARTY CARRYING OUT THE EXPLOSION AND THE VERIFYING PARTY, THE US MADE THE PROPOSAL ON FEBRUARY 20 THAT A PROCESS OF CHANCE ALSO BE USED AFTER THE EXPLOSION TO PROVIDE EACH PARTY ON SET OF THE COMPONENTS USED TO RECORD THE DATA AFTER A COMPLETE SET OF RECORDED DATA HAD BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO BOTH SIDES. WE BELIEVE THE MOST RECENT US PROPOSAL FOR EQUIPMENT CUSTODY AND
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EXAMINATION PROVIDED TO THE SOVIET SIDE ON FEBRUARY 20 MEETS THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY BOTH SIDES AND PROVIDES A WORKABLE PROCEDURE FOR CARRYING OUT THE VERIFICATION TASK.

MY THIRD COMMENT IS IN RESPONSE TO YOUR SEEMING REJECTION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION OF THE BASIS FOR THE PRESENCE OF DESIGNATED PERSONNEL

AND THEIR RIGHTS AND FUNCTIONS FOR AGGREGATE YIELDS
BETWEEN 100 AND 150 KILOTONS IN PARALLEL WITH DISCUSSION
OF THE TWO ISSUED I JUST DISCUSSED. WE CAN PERCEIVE NO
LOGICAL REASON WHY THE RESOLUTION OF THIS MATTER DEPENDS
IN ANY WAY ON RESOLUTION OF THE OTHER TWO ISSUES SINCE
THE TWO SIDES HAVE AGREED THAT NO LOCAL SEISMIC NETWORK
OR YIELD MEASURING EQUIPMENT WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THIS
YIELD RANGE.

WE, THEREFORE, LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR COMMENTS ON
THIS QUESTION EITHER TODAY, OR AT TOMORROW'S MEETING.

END TEXT.
STOESSEL

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NNN

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